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# **Panther Sports News**

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL-- "Tree'n it" is not a term normally connected with sports. But to Eastern Illinois University tennis player E. J. Karsten (Glen Ellyn-Aurora Marmion Military), it describes his excellent tennis play this spring.

A senior playing No. 4 singles, Karsten has won 13 of his 14 matches this past spring, including five against Division I competition.

"I've really been tree'n it," he says. "I'm playing well above average and my stroke feels more natural now than it ever has.

"Concentration is the essential element in tennis," says Karsten, who receives agreement from head coach Carl Sexton although he claims Karsten's main asset is "his individual competitiveness.

"The fact that he has done so well even though he didn't play his first two years reflects positively on his desire to win."

In a mid-April match against highly respected Chuck Knoll of Indiana State, Karsten claims he played his most effective tennis match since he first picked up a racket.

"I tree'd in that match with Knoll. I realized that I was capable of playing with a high caliber opponent."

Although losing 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, Karsten said that contest boosted his confidence. "My goal is to not lose more than two singles matches all year."

Teaming with freshman Jay Johnson, the No. 1 singles, these two have also compiled a respectable 8-6 doubles record.

The Panthers, 8-6 in dual matches, are gearing up for the Mid-Continent Conference championship which will be held at Cedar Falls, IA on May 1-2.